



THE MAINE FARMER PUBLISHING CO., Publishers and Proprietors.

"OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN."

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No. 4.

## Special Offer.

Wishing to complete the work of 1898 and place the subscription list of the *Maine Farmer* above high water mark, NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS will be received at

**\$1.50 to Jan. 1, 1900**

and for the remaining weeks of 1898 the *Farmer* will be sent free. A prompt response will insure the full benefits of this offer.

## Maine Farmer.

Z. A. GILBERT, Agricultural Editor.

## CHILDREN'S WISDOM.

'Twas the hour of prayer, and the farmer stood,

With a thankful heart and a lowly mind,

And prayed to the Author of every good,

That the Father of all would be very kind,

And bless His creatures with raiment and food;

That the blessings each day might be renewed;

That every man might find relief,

And plenty for hunger, joy for grief,

Be measured by the Merciful One,

To all who suffered beneath the sun.

The prayer concluded, the goodly man

Went forth in peace to inspect his farm,

And with his side delighted ran,

Glowing with every beautiful charm,

His little son, a sprightly boy,

Whom home was love and whose life was joy;

And the father said: "The harvest yields

A plentiful crop, my son, this year;

My barns are too small for my grain, I fear."

And they wandered on through row upon row

Of plump sheaves, and at length the child

With earnest look and a rosy glow

On his shining cheek, looked up and smiled,

And said: "My father, do you not pray

For the poor and needy day by day—

That God the Good, would the hungry feed?"

"I do, my son," "Well, I think, as you

said—

His eyes waxed bright, for his whole soul

Shone through—

"That's what God, if He had your wheat,

would do."

Save specimens of your best apples for

the Pomological exhibition, to be held

some time next month.

Where land is cheap and labor high,

the selling system of feeding stock is

largely out of place. Adaptation is one

of the laws of successful farming.

The Country Gentleman, in speaking

of the sale of apples, says that "when

the Ben Davis sells at higher rates than

the Northern Spy, the great need of a

popular bureau of pomological education

is indicated."

Someone made a blunder in connection

with the dairy meeting at Portland,

in announcing Valancey E. Fuller as

secretary of the American Jersey Cattle

Club. Mr. Hemmingsway still holds that

club, as he has for many years past.

Western dairymen have at last come

to comprehend that the Maine plan of

gathering the cream only at the factory,

is the economic method of conducting

the creamery business. It costs too much

to carry the whole milk to the factory,

and take the skim milk back to the farm.

This the Maine dairymen have known

all the while. The cream-gathering plan

is the cheaper way.

The Vermont Dairymen's Association

will hold a combined meeting with

Vermont Butter and Cheese Makers,

and Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association,

at St. Johnsbury, January 3-4-5.

A great meeting is expected. A banquet

will be held one evening during the session.

Some of the best speakers of the

country have been engaged to address

the meetings. Douglas and Bent of

Boston will judge the butter and

cheese. A general invitation is extended

to the country to attend.

We fear that the proposed inter-State

convention and exhibition by the dairy-

men of this State, Maine and Vermont,

will not be held this winter. Such a

meeting would settle some points on

which there are unexpected doubts in

some quarters, and while the State, in

on Wednesday of last week and partake of the good things provided. A separator and Babcock test were in witness in the forenoon, while after dinner the following were some of the questions discussed:

"How can we reduce the cost of producing butter?"

"Why should we produce only the best quality?"

"What is meant by overrun or surplus butter, and what becomes of it?"

The exportation of practically all classes of farm products has increased. In wheat, corn, rye, oats, oatmeal, cotton, bacon, hams, lard, oleomargarine, fresh beef and many other articles of farm production, the exportations of the 10 months are not only in excess of those of the corresponding months of last year, but larger than in any previous year.

The demand for American corn, which has been especially a subject of attention of late, seems to be steadily increasing. The October exports amounted to 12,547,155 bushels, against 7,979,087 in the corresponding months of last year, and for the 10 months amounted to 170,086,506 bushels, against 156,356,373 in the 10 months of the preceding year.

Nearly all the European countries seem to be developing a taste for our corn. Great Britain, which took less than 40,000 bushels in nine months of 1898, having taken 50,000,000 bushels in the nine months of 1899; France increased from less than 4,000,000 bushels in 1898 to over 8,000,000 bushels in 1899; Germany, from less than 13,000,000 bushels in 1898 to over 32,000,000 bushels in 1899. To British North America the exports of corn were less than 8,000,000 bushels in the nine months of 1898, while they are over 21,000,000 bushels in 1899.

## GOVERNMENT AID TO DAIRYING.

As an instance of the studied aid being given to agriculture in general, and particularly to the special branch of dairying, by the neighboring government of Canada, we call attention to the following:

Of late the Dominion government has accepted the importance of the dairy industry to an agricultural community and with it the advantage that may come from aiding in its extension. Accordingly it has organized and put in force active and most efficient efforts in that direction, and with the result of a rapid introduction of the latest and most approved methods of carrying on dairy business. Creameries (as well as cheese factories in their proper place), have multiplied rapidly. Soon it was developed that cold storage is a necessity in connection with factory butter making, and more especially so with the market abroad as is largely the case with the Provincial product. So the government comes to their aid in further substantial encouragement by bearing the full expense of a cold storage attachment to any and every creamery complying with stipulated regulations. This example of the paternal government searching out methods through which to encourage an agricultural industry shows a full recognition on the part of the government of the importance of a prosperous agriculture among its people. Might not our State be profited by a more studied aid to some branches of its farming?

## TURNER CREAMERY—NEW PROCESS.

The starting up of the new creamery, built and equipped the past summer, at Turner Center, is deserving of more than a passing notice, for the reason that in its equipment and management have been introduced those features the latest study of dairy work has shown as necessary to the best results, and which have heretofore been pressed to the attention of dairymen from time to time in the columns of the *Farmer*. More is known today of the requirements necessary to the best of milk, and to the largest quantity and highest quality of butter than when our State first started out in the creamery business. The promoters and managers of this enterprise are men who are thoroughly posted in this latest knowledge along dairy lines. They understand the importance of a first class product, and realize what it means to the farmers who keep the cows that produce the milk from which it is made. They are also thoroughly posted on the means and methods through which only such a product can be realized. Those who furnish the milk know that cleanliness is the first requisite, and they also realize that it commands the market.

The enterprise was started and is owned and governed by the farmers who make the milk. Hence every advantage realized through the best methods and practices returns solely to their own pockets. The business is on the cream-gathering plan, both Cooley and separator cream being gathered. The cream wagons are all covered and every one is required to be kept clean and sweet. The routes are short, so that all cream reaches the factory by the middle of the forenoon, and entirely without damage through long exposure to extreme heat or pounding over long-distance roads. All cream is kept in insulated in ice water till the gathering takes it from the tank. Hence there is at no time any exposure to damaging surroundings or improper temperature,

and it arrives at the creamery in as perfect condition as when it left the hands of the milker.

The cream is all pasteurized at once after its arrival at the factory. For this purpose the management has provided an ingenious, compact, and economical arrangement entirely different from anything found elsewhere in the State. From the scales at the receiving door the cream is emptied into a receiving tank, from which it flows into the pasteurizer. There it is heated to the desired temperature, 155 degrees. From the pasteurizer it flows to the separator, where it is reduced to the desired density, and from the separator spout flows over a cooler charged with flowing ice-water and thence into the ripening tank. All this is done by one continuous movement, and without the necessary presence of any attendant, further than the man who is receiving and weighing the cream at the door, and without the loss of any more time than either one of the several operations alone would require.

The pasteurizing of the cream is one of the most important steps that modern research has brought out. By heating the cream to this high temperature, all ferment germs and all possible dangerous bacilli that may from any source have found a lodgment in the milk or cream, also all deleterious odors coming from damaged or improper food of the cows giving the milk, or from any other source, are driven off, leaving the cream absolutely pure and undefiled from any source. In the ripening process following, a starter is used to introduce ferment germs of the kind desired to bring out the delicious aroma and flavor necessary to a first-class article of butter. Through this process the butter is not only purified, but its flavor is fully under the control of the maker.

Cooley cream contains from eighteen to twenty per cent. of butter fat. As before stated, this is all run through the separator, after being pasteurized, and for the purpose of taking out a further measure of the skim milk mingled with it. This process has never before been introduced in any other factory. The advantage gained is that the cream can be churned at a much lower temperature, thereby securing a cleaner separation and a firmer body to the product.

Thus, through the combination here for the first time thus put into operation, all of the latest disclosures that scientific research has opened up to the art of butter making are introduced, namely, purity, high and delicious flavor, clean churning, firmness, body, and consequent keeping quality. The product, so far sent out from this factory, is certainly in evidence of the claims of these new and later methods.

The Turner Creamery does not seek to extend its business over a wide territory. Its aim is to make a first-class product, and at the lowest practicable cost, thereby securing to its patrons the largest possible net income from their milk.

The officers are as follows: Z. A. Gilbert, Pres.; W. C. Whitman, Nelson W. Adams, Shirley Merrill and Fred Talbot, Directors; C. H. Bradford, Treas.; H. S. Dresser, Sec'y; Superintendent of the factory, William Bradford; Assistant, Herbert Whitman.

## THE DAIRY MEETING AT PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, DEC. 7-8.

While the dairy farming in the vicinity of Portland is chiefly that of making sale milk for city consumption, yet that city is so easy of access from the towns farther out, where the industry takes the shape of butter and cheese making, there can be no question over the success of the meeting called for December 7 to 8, in that city. A most excellent programme has been arranged for the occasion, the several subjects to be considered by the leading speakers, being timely as well as important.

Among the home talent to take part in the meeting, Professor Woods and Gowell need no introduction. Of outside assistance a strong team is announced. Prof. J. L. Hills of the Vermont station is a thorough scientist, a graduate of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and for several years has been doing excellent work at Burlington, especially in the dairy line. Valancey E. Fuller is well known in Jersey circles as the founder and booster of the St. Lambert Jerseys. Later, he had charge of the herd of Jersey cows in the dairy test at the World's Fair at Chicago, and later still for a time was in charge of the well known Hood Farm herd at Lowell, Mass. Without question, on the breeding and care of dairy cows, he is one of the best authorities we have among us. A more acceptable selection could not have been made. The subject of "Sanitary Aspects of Dairying," on which Dr. Theobald Smith is announced to speak, is one that cannot longer be neglected. The call is growing louder and more general every day throughout the enlightened world for healthy cows and pure milk. Those who own the cows and furnish the milk are being held responsible. Dr. Smith is an authority whose utterances will make the lecture features of the meeting the most important ever held in the State. Orrin Douglas of Boston is to score the butter.

## JUDGING AT THE STATE DAIRY CONFERENCE, IN DECEMBER.

The full programme for the coming State Dairy Conference at Portland is given in another column, and the *Farmer* would again urge the dairymen to prepare, attend and exhibit. At the same time it is necessary that the rights of exhibitors be more clearly established than they have been at previous exhibitions of this nature.

Secretary McKen should require uniformity in package, and then provide that no distinguishing mark be attached, that each package be known only by number, and that nothing in the form of an advertisement shall be allowed until the score cards are put up.

Beyond this, exhibitors should demand that no person, directly or indirectly interested in any exhibit, shall be allowed in the room where the judging is done, unless the doors are thrown open and any and every exhibitor allowed equal privileges.

Another step of still greater importance is that the score cards furnished the expert be of sufficient size for marginal notes, and that in case of any cut against any section, the reason for making same is to be written on the card. Judging even by the score card where simply the fractions tell the story, is unsatisfactory and a farce. Perfection has not been reached in butter making, else all hope for improvement is destroyed, and the judge who can find no cause for a cut in any section cannot be the expert to teach the butter makers. Every step must be guarded in the interests of the butter maker that he, or she, may be helped to a better appreciation of what is demanded as the ideal of the most critical market. Then the exhibition becomes an educator, otherwise it is a scramble for the dollars.

It is to be hoped that the conditions under which the awards are made this year, with the full records on the score cards, may be such as to furnish the exhibitor, and the public, with the information necessary for further improvement, and so prevent all cause for the charge of favoritism or unfairness.

Should there be any competition from outside the State, this publicity in recording the variations in value becomes of increased importance, or the entire object of such competition will be lost.

## HOW TO GROW PLUMS—APPLE MAGGOT.

Editor *Maine Farmer*: Will some one who knows, kindly tell me how to manage plum trees? We have some very thrifty looking trees. "More's Arctic," brought from Aroostook county, about twelve years ago, which never bear, one, which is in the vegetable garden, was full of black knot this spring, and we cut it out so thoroughly (burning the pieces) there were only two or three green leaves left. We thought it might as well be from the knife as the disease. This fall it bore one delicious plum, but the black knot is worse than before. The others, growing in grass, are not affected, but have no fruit. When is the proper time to prune them? Can you tell me if spraying with the Bordeaux Mixture will kill the apple maggot, and when is the proper time to do it?

Very truly, H. V. SEWALL.

Old Town, Nov. 9.

Moore's Arctic plum trees in healthy condition should be loaded with fruit, in bearing seasons, in two or three years from the setting. In the case alluded to by our correspondent, we should question whether the trees are true to name.

The Moore's Arctic is a profuse bearer. We never heard of a case where a productive variety, kept healthy and thrifty, failed to bear fruit in bearing years. It is possible that the trees standing in grass and have not been sufficiently fertilized to induce bearing. In such case, digging around them and a liberal application of stable manure is the proper treatment. If this does not bring the fruit, then graft them over to Lombard's or pull them up and plant some new trees.

The "apple maggot" is a bad customer. Wherever this little enemy has become well seeded, it is now destroying practically the whole crop of the choice varieties of fall apples. Up to the present time no means have been discovered of destroying this little insect. The parent fly punctures the skin of the apple while growing and deposits an egg in the flesh of the fruit. The wound heals over, but the egg hatches, the maggot begins to feed on the pulp of the apple, and as it grows, bores its way through and through the apple entirely out of reach of all spray poisons and poisonous applications. No vulnerable point in its career has yet been found. It goes on with its work and multiplication unimpeded.

## SCAB ON POTATOES.

Mr. Editor: Is there anything that will prevent scab on potatoes? I have never tried corrosive sublimate. I shall try it another year. I have heard that the use of sulphur would prevent the scab and last year I tried it but it didn't seem to do much good.

To prevent potatoes from rotting, I have found out something that I did not know before. It is this: When the potato tops first began to rust, I pulled all the tops, and what potatoes came up on the tops I put back in the hills and covered up and let them remain quite late and when they were dug there were no rotten ones, only once in a great while one that was affected when the tops were pulled. I dug one piece of potatoes before I pulled the tops of these, and I

noticed that the first ones that I dug were not so badly affected as the last of that piece dug a few days later. So I am satisfied that if the tops could be pulled at the first appearance of rust, the rust would be almost entirely prevented.

E. W. P.

The rough spots on potatoes known as "scab" are familiar to every one who has grown or handled this product. Many scientists have made a study in recent years of this serious disease, if it may be so called. It is now generally admitted that this defect in potatoes is propagated by a fungus found in and on scabby tubers, and from such seed transmitted to the new crop.

This being the case the remedy is simple—plant no scabby potatoes. While such directions are sound, yet sometimes scab appears where no diseased seed was planted, and worse yet, at times it is difficult to obtain seed that is entirely free from scab. A partial, if not quite sure, prevention in such case is found in soaking the seed before planting, in a solution of corrosive sublimate.

Dissolve two and a quarter ounces of corrosive sublimate in fifteen gallons of water, and immerse the seed for three hours. The liquid should be kept in a wooden or earthen vessel, as the chemical will corrode metal. Corrosive sublimate is a deadly poison, and its use should be guarded accordingly.

Moist land and fermenting manures in the soil are conducive to the multiplication of this disease on the potatoes. A preventive, of course, would be to plant on dry land, and avoid the use of fermenting barn manures.

## A LIVE STATE DAIRYMAN'S ASSOCIATION.

All indications now point to a very general gathering together of the friends of the dairy at Grange Hall, Winthrop, next Tuesday, Nov. 29th, for the purpose of organizing a State Dairyman's Association. The invitation from Winthrop Grange is cordial and butter makers are aroused all over the State. The committee appointed at Bangor has prepared an interesting programme for the day.

Hon. Z. A. Gilbert, Agricultural Editor of the *Maine Farmer*, is to speak upon "Importance of Organization for Dairy Progress." W. C. Whitman, Turner Creamery, upon "Demand for the Best Goods." Hon. B. W. McKen upon "Product of the Cow and What to do with it." Prof. G. M. Gowell, Orono, "Breeding and Care of Dairy Stock." Hon. R. W. Ellis, Embden, on "A Dairy Association for a Farmer," and Dr. G. M. Twitchell, Editor of the *Maine Farmer*, on "A Business Organization."

Half fare has been granted from Bangor, Brunswick, Cumberland Junction, Farmington and intermediate stations to Winthrop, with the tickets good to return the 30th. Teams will be in waiting at the station to take visitors to the hall. Winthrop Grange will furnish a free dinner and entertain all who remain over night.

With such a programme, so hearty an invitation and low rates on the railroad, a large attendance is expected and the new dairy association of Maine perfected in a manner which will materially aid the great agricultural industry of the State. Let every farmer and butter maker who can spare the time prepare to be present and assist in the work of the day.

## MASSACHUSETTS WINTER MEETING.

State Board of Agriculture, Amherst, December 6-8.

As usual, Secretary Sessions has arranged a most excellent programme for the winter meeting of the Board of Agriculture, at Amherst, of the State Agricultural College:

Tuesday, Dec. 6.

10 A. M. Opening address by Henry H. Goodell, LL. D., President Massachusetts Agricultural College.

11 A. M. Lecture: "What the Experiment Stations have learned about Raising and Curing Tobacco," by Dr. E. H. Jenkins, Vice-Director Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

2 P. M. Lecture: "The Mission of the Agricultural Colleges," by Dr. W. H. Jordan, Director New York Agricultural Experiment Station.

7:30 P. M. Lecture: "The Love and Study of Nature (a part of Education)," by Dr. G. Stanley Hall, President Clark University, Worcester.

Wednesday, Dec. 7.

10:30 A. M. Lecture: "The Business Side of Agriculture," by J. H. Hale, South Glanville, Conn.

2 P. M. Lecture: "The Place that Fruit Growing should hold in New England Agriculture," by S. D. Willard, Geneva, N. Y.

Evening 7:30-9:30. Reception to the Board of Agriculture, and others attending the meeting, at the Massachusetts Agricultural College Chapel.

Thursday, Dec. 8.

10:30 A. M. Lecture: "How can New England Compete with the West in Dairying?" by Dr. J. L. Hills, Director Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station.

1:30 P. M. Lecture: "Grasses and Forage Crops," by Prof. C. S. Phelps, Storrs Agricultural College, Storrs, Conn.

All lectures will be followed by discussions, in which all persons present are invited to engage.

## FOREIGN VARIETIES OF POTATOES AND THE BLIGHT.

Notes by Dr. H. J. Wheeler on some experiments at the Rhode Island Experiment Station.

Varieties of potatoes introduced this season from Bavaria and Germany were found to resist the blight much better than those commonly grown. The vines remained green with the same treatment, some two weeks after the others were dead. It is proposed to try and learn if this blight resisting quality will be transmitted in our climate. If such proves to be the case, in two or three years a large quantity of "seed" tubers could be raised for use here from a small quantity of imported seed. If the tendency to withstand the blight endures for one season only, the cost of imported seed would lessen any advantage which might otherwise be gained. The outcome of these experiments will be awaited with interest by all engaged in potato growing.

## Sulphur and Potato Scab.

Experiments with sulphur as a preventive of potato scab in soils, already infested with the fungus, have shown it to act as a plant poison unless sufficient bases are present to neutralize any acid produced by its oxidation. Since soils where potato scab prevails are usually fairly well supplied with lime, or other bases, it would perhaps seldom be applied as a remedy on soils where much injury would result. Earlier experiments at the Station indicate that sulphate of ammonia is probably equally, if not more effective than sulphur in lessening the scab, and since it is a valuable manure of itself and costs much less than sulphur, its use would probably be preferable to the latter.

## GRANGE WORK.

In connection with a reference to the work of the California State Grange found in one of our exchanges, it is stated there are many strong men in the grange in that State, and a large sprinkling of men and women of liberal education and business experience; "yet it is absolutely without organized machinery for collection and digestion of facts bearing on questions coming before it."

May it not be said that a similar charge to the above lays over the work of many other State granges and including our own? Representative men and women come together for a three days' session, yet too often there seems to be little of plan and less of purpose to the work of the session further than carrying out a routine, stereotyped plan relating only to the running year of the organization. Lengthy "reports" are read and extended resolutions passed, all bearing excellent thought and high-minded purpose and indicating the ways and means through which the organization can make itself effective of good works in its chosen field. These thoughts, opinions and suggestions, so expressed, are spread upon the records, yet in too many cases, would not an outsider be justified in saying, there to remain a dead letter? A resolution or opinion amounts to little unless vitalized by active effort. More of real live, aggressive work seems to be called for. The opportunities are many. It remains for the grange to grasp the situation, improve its opportunities. Its strong men and women should step forward and lead the order into the advance positions they so plainly see within their reach. The professions of the grange no one is found to oppose to-day. So long as its work, therefore, conforms to its claims no voice will be raised against its advance.

## For the Maine Farmer.

## THE APPLE QUESTION IN WEST OXFORD.

The apple question seems to come to the front this year, in fact, it is a question that should always occupy such a place with farmers of Maine for several reasons. First, our apples take the lead in the world's markets, and always lead in prices. Second, apples can be produced here very cheaply, as our soil and climate seem to give us a great advantage, and we have thousands of acres of good orchard land, that are unfit for cultivation for other crops, but when set to apples, and properly handled, enhance their value a hundred fold. Now comes the pests. What shall we do? Fight them as we did the Spaniards only we can do it at home. First comes the caterpillar that has devoured our orchards. Now this is nonsense, for a











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Sample Copy sent on application.

Try the Maine Farmer for one month.

THE PUMPKIN.

It is born beneath the shadow of a field of waving corn.

From a flower whose golden color outlines the glow of morn.

Where the bumblebees are working, their rough backs all bright with gold.

And we learn the wondrous secret their busy hum has told.

They say this flower sometimes Will take a different form.

And be the yellow pumpkin When the Autumn sun shines warm.

Then when come October's bright skies and the air is growing cold.

The pumpkin lies in splendor with its rich and yellow gold.

In and out among the shocks of corn this noble fruit is seen.

Half hidden 'neath its vine leaves which still keep their rich, dark green.

And here it waits the harvest Which the Autumn time has brought.

When come great transformations And a pleasing change is wrought.

When the skilful housewife turns it by some necromancy keen

Into the pie so toothsome, with a color bright and clean.

As the yellow of the pumpkin as it lay the corn among.

Hast a flavor sweet whose richness by poets is unsung.

So give to me the pumpkin With the good, old-fashioned pie.

And hail, all hail King Pumpkin, Live long and never die.

—John S. Barrows, in Boston Herald.

The good watches offered in our premium department are giving entire satisfaction, being warranted in every way.

No better gift for Christmas could be desired. Read our grand offer.

The census of Maine shows a falling

The Maine Farmer, an eight page agricultural and home paper of sixty-five years' standing, is today, the best edited, best printed, best established and best family paper for the farm home published in America. Confirmation of this statement will be found by any one who reads its pages and follows its suggestions. Contrary to usual practice, special inducements are temporarily made to increase the subscription list, and these may be found upon different pages of this issue.

The readers of the Maine Farmer are in the families of representative farmers who know what they want, and are prompt to recognize the great improvements made in the paper of their choice. That they desire their friends to avail themselves of the large special offer is evident from the large increase weekly being made to our subscription list. In no way can the friends of the farm and the rural home do better service than by aiding in extending the field occupied by the Maine Farmer.

If you have friends who want a live, up-to-date, progressive home and farm paper, show them the long list of special premiums offered for a single subscriber and aid in swelling the list to 50,000 during the coming year. In return, the proprietors pledge renewed efforts to still further increase the value and interest of these columns.

off in milk cows of over 4000 during the present year. Surely there is need of some organization in the State which will check this drain and maintain our herds intact at least.

The New England Fair Association cannot afford to default its premiums to exhibitors. It has, to be sure, lost prestige because of the low character of entertainments introduced during the past few years, but if it is to hold an existence, good faith must be kept with those who furnish the exhibits. The Farmer is pleased to be able to announce upon the authority of Manager Libby, that the premiums will be paid in full.

During the past weeks the State has realized the importance of a live cattle commission. Dr. Bailey stopped two carloads, chiefly of milk cows, which were being shipped in over the mountain division through or from New Hampshire, without examination, and they are now in quarantine on the line. Two three diseased animals have lately been sent back to the parties shipping into Maine, and the health of our stock is promoted thereby.

Commenting on the report that further aid is this year to be solicited for the University of Maine, the Portland Press very properly urges "every college in the State, Bowdoin, Colby and Bates, to go to the legislature this winter and ask an appropriation. Each and all of them can present just as valid claims as the State College." The benefits recited through our educational institutions, one and all, can not be too strongly urged, and to-day there is no call for discriminating.

Already, plans are being perfected for a raid on the State treasury in the form of increased salaries. Judges of Probate who find their totals halved by reason of the passage of the National Insolvency law are clamoring for legislation to make good the loss. If there is any increase of salaries the coming winter, there will be lively work for the party in power two years hence. The people of Maine will not rest easy until an increase of burdens in this direction. Retrenchment must be the order of the day.

Ernest Taylor, No. Vassalboro, found two dogs chasing his sheep, Monday, and shot and killed both. They proved to belong to Will Norris, who will try to recover damages. If the laws of Maine require damages in this case, the sooner the farmers rise in a body and secure their repeal the better for the State. The sporting interests are large and powerful but the flocks and herds are of greater importance. One attaches to the field of pleasure, the others are a necessity and, therefore, must be protected. Save the sheep.

"I believe that, as concerns the future of our women, they would do far better if they were more lightly taxed, and the school hours but three or four a day, until they reach the age of seventeen," says the *Eastport Sentinel*. "Anything, indeed, would be better than the loss of health, and if it is a question of doubt, the school, unhesitatingly, should be abandoned or its hours greatly lessened, as it is at least in part, the source of very many of the nervous maladies with which our women are troubled." Something is wrong somewhere when children but five years old are required to work in fractions. It looks as though the rigid grading of our schools was of more importance than the health of the children.

With the earning capacity of our savings banks reduced, interest on deposits being cut down gradually, and the possibility that the time will come when depositors may withdraw deposits because of the necessary low rate paid, the movement to secure a reduction of the State tax will be stronger the coming winter than ever. It is pointed out by the friends of the banks that after January 1st there will be but two or three in the State paying as much as four per cent. on deposits and they will, doubtless, have to come down to the level of the others. A comparison is drawn between the high taxation of the savings banks as compared with that of the wild lands. Here is another pointer towards reduced appropriations and State expenses. Not larger but smaller appropriations must be the order of the day.

## THANKSGIVING DAY.

It is well that the people of this nation should be called together one day in the year to rehearse the story and bring fresh to mind the causes for thankfulness. It is easy to drift into a condition where all seems dark ahead and nothing gained in the past, where the terrible evil is magnified and the positive good minimized, and that, too, without being conscious of one's purpose.

Left to one's self, an individual is very likely to run into a line of thinking where the shadows will obscure the sunlight. Only as we begin to recount the causes for thankfulness during any given period do we begin to realize how many they are, and, dwelling on these, the shadows are driven back and life takes on a brighter, warmer glow.

Of all people on the face of the earth, we, of this continent, have special cause for thankfulness, especially here in New England, hard, cold and sterile as it is sometimes said to be. We will gather this day to rejoice, even though the shadow of a great sorrow falls athwart many a family, for the dread evil of war has passed, and the stars and stripes have taken an added significance and value. Not that they were over increased territory will we rejoice, but that they represent a truer patriotism in the heart of every loyal American citizen.

From the Atlantic to the Pacific the sun shines to-day upon a people contented, happy and prosperous. In the West, great harvests have lifted the pall of debt which threatened ruin, and in the East the granaries and barns are filled beyond any previous year. The turnings have brought evidence of re- turning prosperity, and those upon whose shoulders the heaviest weight has rested begin to see glimpses of brighter days just ahead. Maine, the last to feel the stress of hard times, may be the last to respond to the thrill of a new life, but the current is moving faster even here, and the promise of renewed activity is dawning in every centre. Peace rests upon our fair land, the voice of the people has been heard again at the polls, and it has spoken with no uncertain sound in behalf of a wise, temperate, conservative administration of public affairs; confidence is being restored; the commerce of this nation is once more active upon the seas; the tide of imports has been stayed, and the volume of trade is to-day largely in our favor.

Our philanthropists are seeking new avenues for service, our inventors touching the hidden springs of power, that the public may be enriched thereby; our poets are singing a glad, sweet song, and the every-day toiler finds increased blessings at his command to relieve from what otherwise would be the dreary monotony of daily toil. A glad Thanksgiving should it be, and as its joys and pleasures fill our hearts, let one and all remember that life is for service, not indulgence, and that the best hymn of praise and prayer of thanksgiving are to be found in aiding those less fortunate and in keeping close to our hearts the hope and courage which alone can make certain the larger possibilities of 1899.

## THE PRESS REPEFOGED.

So when you said in your issue of the sixth of October, speaking of the fact that—"The law which was conceived of as a panacea for political ills is proving the deadliest enemy to American citizenship, and the first act of the legislature of 1899 should be to wipe every vestige from the statutes," you meant that every advocate of repeal "urges the repealing of this section."

Your way of urging the retention of a part of a law is to urge the legislature to wipe out every vestige of it. How happy the farmers must be that they have an organ with such a felicitous way of conveying to them its opinions.—Portland Press.

The Farmer may or may not be a "felicitous," but it will not seek to misrepresent or mislead. The Press is either completely befogged or wilfully ignorant. The section of the law providing for the gate, rail, position of ballot box and orderliness of room is but incidental, and applicable to any law which may be framed. The Press seeks to mislead by assuming that this is the law and the sections governing the printing, distributing, marking and depositing the ballot, the incidental portions. The trouble with the Press is that it is trying to help the tail wag the dog. Men who are attracted by the quiet of the vote places are encouraged to believe that this is due to the Australian ballot, whereas, as already stated, it is but incidental to the law, and the Farmer urges the retention of the clause while insisting on the repeal of the burdensome and obnoxious sections which have been the cause of disfranchising thousands at every election.

It is the Australian ballot law which costs the voters of Maine \$50,000 every two years. Two elections are held, which disfranchises 5000 or more intelligent, not ignorant, voters, because of technical errors in marking the ballots, though the purpose of the voter is apparent; which will render necessary the uneating of one or more members of the incoming legislature, about whose election there is no question, simply because stickers were used over instead of "under," as the law specifies; it is this law which the Farmer opposes and will oppose, in the interest of good government and wiser politics, and it is the same law which the Press blindly supports, while attempting to mislead the voter by representing that the section relating to the quiet and orderliness of the vote places is all there is to it. The crime which is to be perpetrated through the mandatory requirements of this law should arouse every honest citizen to its enormity, and the befogged Press should brush away the cobwebs and join in demanding justice and protection for the candidates elected, and an immediate return to a system where intent shall be held sacred, and every ballot be counted in accordance with the will and wish of the individual voter. Is the Press able to comprehend the situation and mark the distinction, or does it propose to continue to garble, misquote and mislead?

We devote considerable space to the State Dairy Conference in the hope that a large number may be encouraged to attend, and avail themselves of the most excellent programme provided.

## PROPOSED SECRET BALLOT LAW.

Maine's grand old man, Hon. James W. Bradbury, Augusta, has, from the first, manifested intense interest in the enactments touching the ballot, and realizing the injustice caused by the present law, both in its operations and the enormous burden of expense entailed, he has modified his original bill and proposes to present the following to the legislature this winter. It removes a large portion of the expense to municipalities, and simplifies, rather than increases, the machinery required to carry out the law, while publishing the proposed law in full, while not yielding its preference for the open ballot.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the several cities, and of each of the towns and plantations in this State before the first day of next to provide for each polling place therein an ante room for any elector to use, and to be kept closed, connecting with the room where the voting is to take place, and to provide therein a table or shelf with separate compartments for ballots conspicuously marked Republican, Democrat, Prohibition, Populist, Miscellaneous, and any other party name, in which the several parties shall place the ballots for the voters before the voting at any election shall begin. None but the regular ticket shall be put in any of the compartments save that marked "Miscellaneous."

Said cities and towns shall also provide a table or stand convenient for any elector to use, and to be kept closed, and the ballot to be placed on the table as aforesaid, and after placing it on the table, the elector shall be permitted to open the door to the voting room, enter it and vote by depositing the envelope containing the ballot as aforesaid.

Section 2. The elector, on entering the ante room, in to receive an envelope, from the doorkeeper, and when therein, with both doors closed, he is to select his ballot from those placed upon the table as aforesaid, and after placing it on the table, the elector shall be permitted to open the door to the voting room, enter it and vote by depositing the envelope containing the ballot as aforesaid.

Section 3. No elector shall vote any other ballot than the one selected and taken from the table as aforesaid. No elector or person claiming to be such shall carry with him any ballot when he enters the ante-room for the purpose of voting or attempting to do so.

And no person shall circulate or have in his possession for the purpose of circulation any ballot in the vicinity of the polling place during the voting period, nor shall he attempt to do so, or by imprisonment not exceeding 90 days.

Section 4. Any elector can not read or from physical inability needs assistance, he may have two persons appointed by the two leading parties (one by each) go into the ante-room with him and point out the different ballots, and allow him to select for himself the ballot he desires.

Section 5. The Secretary of State shall have prepared and sent to the clerks of the several cities, towns and voting plantations in the State, suitable envelopes, marked "VOID," equal to double, the number of votes therein at least 30 days before any election under this act, and such clerks shall place the necessary number of them in the hands of the presiding officer at each polling place.

Section 6. The regular ballot may have at the head the name of the party, conspicuously printed or written; and it may have any other distinguishing mark or color.

Any citizen may have the ballot of his choice put into the miscellaneous compartment; but it must not have at its head the name of any regular party.

The compartments may best have a space between them.

Should two ballots be found in the envelope, only one must be counted. Should more than two, it shall be prima facie evidence of fraud and all of them shall be rejected.

Section 7. Upon the passage of this act, chapter 202 of the laws of 1898, denominated the Australian Ballot Law, and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed; and all the provisions of the statutes relating to elections not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, chapter 202 of the laws of 1898, are hereby revived, excepting that it shall be lawful for the ballots placed upon the table in the ante-room to be headed with the name of the party they are for.

## OUR ULTIMATUM TO SPAIN.

\$30,000,000 For the Philippines.

To the average American there has been needless delays in the final settlement at Paris, and whether approving or not, all will rejoice to know that the ultimatum has been issued and the whole burden is now upon the Spanish.

Those who have opposed the further extension of territory will find still further cause for criticism of the general policy in the reaching after the entire Philippines. At the meeting of the commissioners on Monday, the fact was cited that the proposal presented by the American commissioners in behalf of their government for the cession of the Philippine Islands to the United States having been rejected by the Spanish commissioners, and the counter proposal of the latter for the withdrawal of the American forces from the islands and the payment of an indemnity by the United States to Spain having been rejected by the American commissioners, the latter deeming it essential that the present negotiations already greatly protracted, should be brought to an early definite conclusion, now begged to present a new proposition embodying the concessions, which, for the sake of peace, their government would, under the circumstances, be willing to tender.

The government of the United States is unable to modify the proposal heretofore made for the cession of the entire archipelago of the Philippines, but the American commissioners are authorized to offer to Spain, in case the cession

should be agreed to, the sum of \$20,000,000, to be paid in accordance with the terms to be fixed in the treaty of peace.

It being the policy of the United States to maintain in the Philippines an open door to the world's commerce, the American commissioners are prepared to insert in the treaty, a stipulation to that effect, that for a term of years, the Spanish ships and merchandise shall be admitted into Philippine ports on the same terms as American ships and merchandise.

The American commissioners are also authorized and are prepared to insert in the treaty in connection with cession of territory by Spain to the United States, a provision for the mutual relinquishment of all claims for indemnity, national and individual, of all kinds, of the United States against Spain and of Spain against the United States, that have arisen since the beginning of the late Cuban insurrection and prior to the conclusion of the treaty of peace.

The United States commission expressed the hope that they might receive from the Spanish commissioners on or before Monday, the twenty-eighth day of the present month, a final acceptance of the proposals made as to the Philippines, in connection also with the demands as to Cuba, Porto Rico, and the other Spanish islands of the West Indies, and Guam, in the form of which these demands have been provisionally agreed to.

In this event it would be possible for the joint commission to continue its sessions and proceed to the consideration and adjustment of other matters, including those which, as subsidiary and incidental to the joint provisions, should form part of the treaty of peace.

It was at this juncture that the Americans notified the Spaniards that they desired to treat the religious freedom of the Caroline Islands, as agreed to 12 years ago; also of the release of political prisoners now held by Spain in connection with the insurrections in Cuba and the Philippine Islands; also of the taking of the island of Kusaie or Ualan, in the Carolines for a telegraphic and naval station; also of cable station rights at other points in Spain's jurisdiction, and also of the renewal of certain treaties previously in force between the United States and Spain, and which may have lapsed or been vitiated by war. In case of refusal to accept, the President will order the seizing and holding of this territory by conquest.

## IMPROVED HIGHWAYS.

Hon. Chas. E. Littlefield of Rockland, in urging upon the legislature the necessity of taking some action on the good roads question. He has had an idea for some time that the Massachusetts system, by which the State takes charge of what he calls State roads, with an eye to developing a system of macadamized, thoroughly built roads, was the only practical method by which our principal thoroughfares could be put in first-class condition. He thinks there has been a good deal said and very little done about good roads, and that the plan of having a road commissioner as distinguished from the ordinary highway surveyors is not giving the postmaster took in 1897. The gross receipts at Gardiner, last year were \$9611.17, as against \$1214.52 in 1897. The net revenue amounted to \$5774.61 as against \$3532.41 for 1897. At Hallowell the postmaster took in \$5112, while the total expense of the office was \$2163.44, the net revenue was \$2948.56. At Waterville the receipts were \$25,333, last year, as against \$18,194.35, for the year 1897. The net revenue from the office in 1898 was \$15,433.71, as against \$1410.82 in 1898.

Mr. Lyander W. Mason of Vassalboro, formerly of Augusta, was arrested Saturday for violation of U. S. postal laws in sending advertisements and articles through the mails prohibited by law. The offense is punishable by fine of \$5000 or imprisonment for five years, or both.

One subscriber has been found who objects to the Farmer because it sets the standard production by our dairy cows so high. There may be force in the criticism, but certainly no improvement was ever made by those content with present results. Conditions are changing so rapidly that what once sufficed will no longer yield a profit. Then again the Farmer has such faith in the skill of the farmers of the East that it is necessary only to establish the fact that one man has reached a higher level, for the great majority to catch up with once to equal the same. The production of dairy herds is steadily being increased and the East has not been reached. The Farmer will aid the uproad march.

The attempt to organize the anti-imperialist element against extension of territory is like looking the stable after the horse is stolen. Its only effect will be to provoke disturbing discussions. The time has passed for quibbling and the United States cannot now turn back the tide of events transpiring during the past six months. The only thing to do now is to face the future and seek to Americanize the elements on the islands of the sea. Congress has not approved the findings of the commissioners, but to disapprove would now make America the laughing stock of the nation.

A keen, observing man who has been travelling through Maine extensively, stated to the writer a few days since, that in one county he found scores of intelligent men in different neighborhoods, who have never voted since the Australian ballot law was passed, so intense is their dislike for its machinery and so strong their feeling that it makes a man a political sneak and coward. Whether right or wrong in their convictions, the fact that it operates against the freest expression of individual opinion is cause sufficient for the substitution of a simpler form of ballot.

R. W. Soule, "The Hustler," with ready money is able to pick up the creamiest bargains in the line of house furnishing goods. His recent purchase of over three carloads is now in stock and being closed at wonderfully low prices. Read his ad. in this paper.

The editor would express his obligations to Mr. D. H. Hemore, Smyrna, for a barrel of choice Aroostook potatoes. They will be appreciated in the days to come for the quality is superior.

The State Insurance department is doing good service in seeking to fix responsibility for the frequent fires in Maine.

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## City News.

The markets have been well supplied this week, and the farmers who delayed bringing in their poultry have been forced to sell at low prices.

Repairs on the sewer on Grove street and Rine's hill, together with the rain, have left the hill in terrible condition for winter.

No man who drives over State street from Bridge to the State House, can justly feel to complain at the slight increase in taxes for the great improvements made. Another year the northern end of the street will require attention.

The frequent cases of housebreaking in the city indicate the presence of a lawless element, whether old or young. Care should be taken to keep doors locked and windows barred, and suspicious characters on the street may well be required to identify themselves and show for what purpose they are in town.

The Augusta post office is the second largest in Maine, and from its postal receipts, last year, the government secured a net revenue of \$69,223.48. This is an increase of about \$1000 over the year 1897, when the net revenue from the office was \$68,283.58. The total expenses of the office, last year, were \$35,400.65, which had to come out of gross receipts of \$104,624.13. The gross receipts for 1897 were \$101,613.41. The postmaster's salary is \$3300 a year and last year the clerk hire cost the government \$24,744.79; incidental expenses amounted to \$408.59; free delivery cost the city, last year, \$7147.27, as against \$7046.19 in 1897.

## County News.

James E. Myers, one of the respected citizens of Manchester, died on Monday, at the ripe age of 88 years.

Mr. Charles Keith of Kent's Hill, an aged and respected citizen, died at his home Saturday morning.

Mr. C. P. Greeley of Readfield, one of the respected citizens of the town, committed suicide by hanging, last Thursday. We knew him as a kind neighbor and a faithful worker for home and dear ones.

Miss Lillian May Knox of Oakland, is in jail awaiting trial to answer the charge, brought by the State Insurance department, for setting fire to a house in Oakland, Nov. 11, in which eight or ten people were sleeping.

At a late hour Thursday night, Deputy Sheriff S. T. Heron was called to the camp of Italians who are employed on the water works at Oakland to arrest one of them who had stabbed a man in the abdomen. When the officer arrived the man who did the cutting was nowhere to be found and one of the Italians was suffering from a bad wound in the abdomen. A physician was called to attend the injured man, who is now quite comfortable.

The steady increase in the post office business at the offices in the cities of Kennebec county well indicates the increase in volume of business transacted. The gross receipts at Gardiner, last year were \$9611.17, as against \$1214.52 in 1897. The net revenue amounted to \$5774.61 as against \$3532.41 for 1897. At Hallowell the postmaster took in \$5112, while the total expense of the office was \$2163.44, the net revenue was \$2948.56. At Waterville the receipts were \$25,333, last year, as against \$18,194.35, for the year 1897. The net revenue from the office in 1898 was \$15,433.71, as against \$1410.82 in 1898.

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## PERSONAL.

The Waterville Mail pays Deputy Insurance Commissioner C. W. Fletcher of this city, a high compliment on his management of the case against the Knox woman for setting fire to the house in Oakland. The compliment is deserved. Mr. Fletcher is a methodical, painstaking and efficient official in any position.

With the last issue of the *Star Herald*, Presque Isle, Mr. G. H. Collins, who has for years so ably filled the chair as editor in chief, retires, and Mr. L. J. Pendell steps into the vacant seat. The *Star Herald* is one of our live State newspapers and the Maine Farmer congratulates it upon the work of the past and tenders best wishes for the future.

Mr. Samuel D. Graves of Rockland, who served in Co. H. 1st Maine U. S. Vols., is engaged in collecting material for a history of the regiment, which he will compile and write. He will probably be able to finish the work so it may be published early next year. Mr. Graves is admirably qualified for the work, having fine literary abilities, and having been in a position to be conversant with the history of the organization.

## Star Pointer, \$15.00.

At the noted Fagis sale of horses at Madison Square Garden, New York, Star Pointer, the world's most noted pacer, with a record of 1:59 1/4, sold for \$15,000 or \$9000 less than he brought in 1897. Waldo, a black mare by Allamont, dam by Chimes, was purchased by Mr. A. J. Libby, Gardiner, for Mr. R. W. Goodrich, Poultney, Vt., for \$230.

The steamer "Frank Jones" will be withdrawn from the Portland and Machiasport route for the season of 1898, making her last trip eastward, leaving Portland, Friday, December 23d, and westward, leaving Machiasport, Monday, December 26th. This service will be resumed March, 1899, of which due notice will be given.

Mr. Chas. K. Partridge, at the Old Reliable Drug Store, opposite Post Office, is the agent in Augusta for Burr's Green Houses, and the best Boston Florida. He will keep on hand this winter the finest fresh-out flowers to sell, in any quantity, and fill orders quickly for artistic flower designs for all occasions.

## State Dairy Conference















